

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 9-13 are allowed, claims 1, 3, 5-7, 14, 16 and 18-20 were rejected, and claims 2, 4, 8, 15 and 17 were objected to. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4 and 14 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Specification

The specification has been amended to recite the U.S. Patent Publication number corresponding to attorney docket number LEAR04140PUS. As a result, this objection is believed to be cured.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 6, 14, 16 and 19 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,564,056 issued to Doring (hereinafter "Doring '056"). Independent claims 1 and 14 are discussed separately below.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 as originally presented, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Consequently, Applicants believe that the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome. Since claims 3 and 6 depend on claim 1, Applicants believe that these claims are allowable for the same reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 14 to more distinctly recite the present invention. Amended claim 14 recites a grommet body having a nose section, a cylindrical section, and a flange section. The nose section is disposed "a first end of the grommet body." The cylindrical section is "disposed adjacent to and having a larger diameter than the nose section." The flange section projects radially outward from the second end of the grommet body and "is disposed adjacent to the cylindrical section." Doring '056 does not disclose a grommet body having the combination of sections as claimed. Instead, Doring '056 discloses

a rubber covering 30 having a cylindrical projection 4, a sealing groove 5, and a sealing bead 6 (see column 3, lines 10-15 and Figure 1). The sealing groove 5 is not a cylindrical section as claimed since it is not disposed adjacent to a nose section and does not have a larger diameter than the nose section. Similarly, the sealing bead 6 is not a cylindrical section since it is not disposed adjacent to a flange section that projects radially outward from the second end of the grommet body. Rather, the sealing bead 6 is separated from the cylindrical projection 4 by sealing groove 5. Consequently, Applicants believe that the rejection of claim 14 has been overcome. Since claims 16 and 19 depend on claim 14, Applicants believe that these claims are allowable for the same reasons


Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 7, 18 and 20 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doring '056 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,506,695 issued to Kuypers (hereinafter "Kuypers '695"). Claims 5 and 7 depend on claim 1. Claims 18 and 20 depend on claim 14. Consequently, Applicants believe that these claims are allowable for the reasons previously discussed.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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